

Appl. No. 10/549,389  
Reply to Office Action mailed January 5, 2007

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A method for preparing a sample to extract RNA used in a tumor marker detecting method for diagnosing colon cancer~~[[,]] comprising [[the]] following process consisting essentially of:~~

a) ~~[[a]] process [[to]] homogenize [[the]]~~ homogenizing a collected biological sample in the presence of an RNase inhibitor~~[[,]] to prepare a suspension thereof[[;]]~~  
~~characterized by involving no procedure of~~ without separating cell components from the biological sample.

Claim 2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the collected biological sample is frozen.

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Claim 3. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the RNase inhibitor is guanidine thiocyanate.

Claim 4. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the biological sample is feces.

Claim 5. (currently amended) A tumor marker detecting method for diagnosing colon cancer[[,]] ~~comprising the following processes consisting essentially of:~~

- a) homogenizing a collected biological sample in the presence of an RNase inhibitor to prepare a suspension, without separating cell components from the biological sample;
- b) ~~[[a]] process to extract~~ extracting RNA from the obtained sample ~~[[for]]~~ extracting obtained from step a) to provide extracted RNA;
- c) ~~[[a]] process to~~ carrying out reverse transcribe transcription on the extracted RNA from step b) to ~~give~~ provide cDNA;
- d) ~~[[a]] process to amplify~~ amplifying the obtained cDNA from step c); and

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e) ~~[[a]] process to detect~~ detecting the amplified cDNA~~[[,]]~~  
~~in addition [[to]] the method according [[to]] claim [[1]]~~ from  
step (d).

Claim 6. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the tumor marker is COX-2.

Claim 7. (withdrawn) A kit for preparing a sample to extract RNA used in a tumor marker detecting method for diagnosing colon cancer, comprising the following means:

a) a means to homogenize a collected biological sample in the presence of an RNase inhibitor, and prepare a suspension thereof; characterized by involving no means for separating cell components from the biological sample.

Claim 8. (withdrawn) A kit according to claim 7, further comprising a means to freeze the collected biological sample.

Claim 9. (withdrawn) A kit according to claim 7, wherein the RNase inhibitor is guanidine thiocyanate.

Claim 10. (withdrawn) A kit according to claim 7, wherein the biological sample comprises feces.

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Claim 11. (withdrawn) A tumor marker detecting kit for diagnosing colon cancer, comprising the following means:

- b) a means to extract RNA from the obtained sample for extracting RNA;
- c) a means to reverse transcribe the extracted RNA to give cDNA;
- d) a means to amplify the obtained cDNA; and
- e) a means to detect the amplified cDNA.

Claim 12. (withdrawn) A kit according to claim 7, wherein the tumor marker is COX-2.

Claim 13. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein the biological sample comprises microorganisms.

Claim 14. (new) The method according to claim 5, wherein in step b) whole RNA is extracted from the sample obtained from step a) without separating RNA derived from human cells from RNA derived from bacteria.

Claim 15. (new) The method according to claim 5, wherein in step d) amplifying the cDNA from step c) is carried out by a nested PCR.

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Claim 16. (new) The method according to claim 5, wherein the amplification is carried out by a PCR and a first round of the PCR is executed for 20 cycles.

Claim 17. (new) A method according to claim 5, wherein the collected biological sample is frozen.

Claim 18. (new) A method according to claim 5, wherein the RNase inhibition is guanidine thiocyanate.

Claim 19. (new) A method according to claim 5, wherein the biological sample comprises feces.

Claim 20. (new) A method according to claim 6, wherein the biological sample is frozen; the biological sample comprises feces; and the RNase inhibitor is guanidine thiocyanate.